

PRESS RELEASE

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Smell and taste scientists partner with Fort Myers educators in community events

Fort Myers, FL— Researchers from the Association for Chemoreception Sciences (AChemS) partnered with local educators to bring smell and taste information to elementary students and senior citizens. At the first event, hosted by the Imaginarium, the scientists taught students the importance of smell, taste, and flavor in everyday life. Students worked together in groups and participated in four demonstrations on topics such as the different contributions of taste and smell to flavor perception, the influence of color on the perception of odors, and the differences between chemosensory abilities in animals. The students and the scientists also explored the museum exhibits together. At the second event, hosted by Cypress Grove Senior Living Community, Dr. Valerie Duffy gave a seminar on nutrition and chemosensory health. Seniors commonly have smell and taste impairments that reduce the quality of life and, often, precede other neurological disorders such as Parkinson's or Alzheimer's Disease. This inaugural seminar was recorded and will be integrated into the Cypress Grove educational video series.

The chemical senses are vital senses that bring pleasure to daily life, inform us about our environment, and guide fundamental behaviors in humans and animals. Smell and taste are crucial to daily functions ranging from food choice to selecting commercial products to detecting environmental dangers such as gas leaks. Thousands of Americans experience loss of smell or taste each year resulting from head trauma, sinus disease, normal aging, and neurological disorders.

The Association for Chemoreception Sciences is largest, international society dedicated to the study of how organisms detect, respond to, and remember environmental chemicals. AChemS researchers seek to understand chemosensory systems and function in order to improve the diagnoses and treatment of multiple maladies.